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Aldenham Today

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

We were pleased to see over 200 pupils sit the Entrance Test in January to enter Year 7 and around 100 pupils for possible selection for the 30 places in Year 9. Since the establishment of the Aldenham Foundation in 2011 we now have responsibility for educating over 900 children across our two sites and three schools.

It has certainly been a very busy programme for everyone since the start of the School year. You can read about some of the highlights in this newsletter including the excellent Sixth Form Dinner, House Music competition, the Carol Service at St Albans Cathedral and the memorable performances of *Coram Boy*, not forgetting our sporting successes. School trips have included the Classics trip to Italy, Netballers to Marbella, Footballers to Madrid, senior trip to Poland and Computing students to San Francisco. As well as the many special guest speakers to the School; Andy Haldane (Chief Economist from the Bank of England), Joanna Trollope, Peter Tatchell and Eleanor Mills, there is no doubt that the students gain enormously from these opportunities which cannot fail to inspire and enhance their education.

If you have not recently had a look I would recommend a visit to the School's website www.aldenham.com. There you can keep abreast of the latest news and read about the excellent all round education on offer at Aldenham.

James Fowler



Headmaster James Fowler



LES PHILOSOPHES

It was a great honour to welcome human rights campaigner, Peter Tatchell, to address Les Philosophes. Mr Tatchell focussed on his campaign to overcome global poverty, but was also able to reflect on his success in campaigns for LGBT rights as well as his plan in 1999 to highlight human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.



Another visitor was Eleanor Mills, the Editorial Director of the Sunday Times and Editor of the Sunday Times Magazine, who spoke about her career in journalism covering some of the most powerful stories at home and abroad. Editorial highlights include stories on the Boko Haram kidnappings and the Yazidi girls of Iraq being abused, tortured and killed by Isis. She also covered the damage caused to teenagers by the culture of internet pornography prevalent in society and equality for women in society, which provoked some superb questions from the audience.

World famous author Joanna Trollope OBE was another guest speaker. Joanna, whose best-sellers include *A Rector's Wife* and *The Choir*, spoke of the value of a broad education and the importance of passions in life. She also answered some probing questions from Sixth Form members on writing, inspirations and success versus failure. Joanna delivered her talk and answers with wonderful timing, humour and eloquence and encouraged the students to seek contentment in their lives by following their dreams and passions.



Senior School Principal Andy Williams with Joanna Trollope

VISITATION OF THE BREWERS' COMPANY

The annual visitation of the Master and Warden of the Brewers' Company took place on one of the hottest days of the year and on the hottest September day for over 100 years!

In 1596, following the pattern established by other successful businessmen of the time, Richard Platt obtained Letters Patent to establish a school at his birthplace, the then remote Hertfordshire village of Aldenham. The Brewers' Company, of which he had long been a member, were chosen as trustees. Since 1597 the Company has made an annual visit checking on the progress of the School, often taking an inventory of the goods belonging to both the School and the alms-houses at Round Bush.



Starting with a tour of the Prep School the group moved to the Sports Hall to see a girls' trampoline lesson before looking into Language, Chemistry and Drama classes in the Senior School. A game on the Fives courts and a Hockey practise on the Artificial Turf Pitch in the heat of the afternoon was followed by an inspection of one of the boys' boarding Houses where they saw at first hand some of the £2 million refurbishments that were made during the summer holidays. Everyone was delighted with a satisfactory inspection.

VISIT BY THE CHIEF ECONOMIST FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND

The Aldenham Business Society welcomed Mr Andy Haldane, Chief Economist from the Bank of England, as their guest speaker. Mr Haldane, voted one of TIME magazine's Top 100 most influential people in the world, is one of the nine members who work with the Governor of the Bank to decide on the base rate of interest. Explaining that we are living in a time of unprecedented global economic turmoil with interest rates in the UK at their lowest for at least 5,000 years, Mr Haldane said that the challenge now is to find ways of stabilising the economy - "It is a time for changing rules and changing policy too".



WINNERS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND INTEREST RATE CHALLENGE

Aldenham's 'Target 2' team beat off stiff competition to win the regional heat of the Bank of England Interest Rate Challenge and go through to the area finals in March. Having beaten over 300 schools this makes the Aldenham team one of the top 48 in the country. Good luck to them in the area finals!



Congratulations to the team (L to R) **Stephen McMahon**, **Ahilesh Ramesh**, Mr Flindall, **Reshmi Patel**, **Tom Yardley** with **Tom Ripper** and **Iana Ezrokh** supporting them.

ALDENHAM SCHOOL REMEMBERS

The Senior School assembled in the Chapel to mark Armistice Day. Members of the School community walked along the path to Chapel past flags from more than 50 nations represented in the School. These flags were laid upon the altar, along with the CCF's colours, during the opening hymn. Former Padre, Simon Chapman preached at the service on the acute sense of loss felt by those who had been bereaved as a result of conflict. The Head Boy and Head Girl read out the names of the 45 OAs who died in the First World War between 11th November 1915 and the same date a year later. This was Aldenham's deadliest year in the war. The congregation left the Chapel in silence as the bell tolled 288 times - once for every casualty of war amongst the Aldenham community.



On Remembrance Sunday, dozens of boarders and Aldenham staff joined the local community around the Green in Letchmore Heath as the School also played a large part in the Remembrance Day commemorations. The CCF stood solemnly throughout the service. Members of the Brass Ensemble accompanied the congregational hymns, and **Reshmi Patel** played the *Last Post* and *Reveille*. Revd. Green led the intercessions and wreaths were laid by the Headmaster, Head of Prep School and **Tom Jacobs** from the CCF.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE MASTER CLASS

The first Science Masterclass hosted by Aldenham for primary school children was attended by 24 enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 students from Courtlands School, St Hilda's and Aldenham Prep School. They thoroughly enjoyed working with new friends and being challenged to form hypotheses at the same time as the practical experiments in one of the School's Chemistry laboratories.



CHICKS IN BIOLOGY

As part of their plant and animal reproduction lessons Year 7 pupils have been able to track the development of seven fertilised eggs kindly loaned to us by the Aldenham Country Park along with an incubator. The Science Department saw regular visits by pupils and teachers alike, all keen to follow the progress of the newly hatched chicks before they were returned to Aldenham Country Park. The Biology Department will be continuing this project, next time with duck eggs.



DRAMA

The theme for Senior House Drama was 'Conspiracy Theories'. The difficult task of judging the evening was given to actress Helen Phillips who was extremely impressed by the standard of the work produced in just one day. Riding's opened with their portrayal of the assassination of John F Kennedy. **Stephen McMahon** commanded the stage in his performance of the Inspector whilst the ensemble explored the psychiatric state of the murderer.



Paull's performance on the death of Princess Diana saw **Georgina Harvey** and **Sophie Lourides** deservedly earning the prize for **Best Director**.



The Leeman's House show, based in Area 51 was judged the Best Show, and included standout performances from **Harry Taylor** (Best Actor) and **Jake Reynolds** who led the performance.

Beevor's House used comedy brilliantly to look closely at the politician Iqbal (**Azaan Iqbal**) and whether he was in fact a reptile. Here **Luca Edmondson** took the lead role of David Ike as the piece explored his obsession with his theory and the impact it had on his family and friends. Kennedy's House combined comedy with tragedy in their depiction of the Apollo 11 Moon Landings. Both **Tega Ogufere** and **Daniel Calvert-Skinner** were commended by the adjudicator for their entertaining and believable leading roles.

MARTINEAU'S DRAMA COMPETITION

The theme was 'Stories from Around the World' and served as a way of celebrating Drama and different cultures. It also provided a team-building opportunity for Martineau's tutors and their tutees, with assistance from GCSE and A Level Drama students.



The winners of the Best Play were Collier with *How the Tortoise got his Crooked Shell* - the piece involved all students throughout and included the use of song and physical theatre. Runner up Best Play was awarded to Swayne for their clear retelling of *Adam and the Dragon's Treasure*. The Best Performer award went to **Clem McQuoid**, also from Swayne, for her faultless performance as the narrator of the piece. Runner up Best Performer was **Jamie Crosby** from Collier, who demonstrated enthusiasm and excellent ensemble work.

McGill's House closed with their TV Show inspired performance 'Fact or Fiction' which considered multiple conspiracy theories surrounding the events of 9/11. The adjudicator had particular praise for the versatile and comedic performances of **Zackary Agama** (Runner-Up Best Actor) and **Christian Gauthier**, with their air steward sequence garnering some of the biggest laughs of the night. Praise also went to their directorial team of **Daniel Shores** and **Zackary Agama** who secured Runner-Up Best Director.



Annie Sutton from The Stanislavski Experience led a workshop on Berkoff for A-level Drama students and some gifted and talented students from Years 11-13.

SENIOR PRODUCTION – CORAM BOY

The cast from Years 9-13 took to the stage for the Senior Production, *Coram Boy*, following the story of a music scholar who wishes to pursue his dream of writing his own music against his father's wishes. This production ran for three nights in the Aldenham School Theatre, brilliantly directed by Miss Charlotte Martin with support from Miss Georgee Burn and Miss Niamh Brewer.

Two of the standout performances came from **Zacky Agama** and **Sienna Edmondson** as the evil duo Otis Gardiner and Mrs Lynch. Zacky's performance was particularly chilling and won huge praise from the audience. Special mention must also go to **Azaan Iqbal** as Meshak whose innocence and pain captured the sympathy of the audience from the outset.

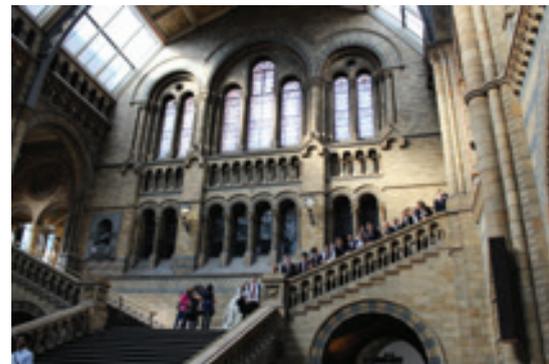


The first half saw emotional performances by **Adam Harrison-Salih** and **Jolie Sharpe** as the young lovers, Alexander and Melissa. **Luca Edmondson** gave a convincing and humorous performance as the 'cheeky chap' Thomas Ledbury, whilst **Emma Gillespie**, **Maccon Forsyth**, **Nevada Ross**, **Harry Taylor** and **Sarah McMahon** completed the Ashbrook family with energy and enthusiasm.



In the second half **Daniel Calvert-Skinner** and **Archie Hudson-Rawlings** took over the roles of Alexander and Thomas, demonstrating maturity in their performances as the play took an even darker turn. Their performances were complemented by those of **Ethan Hayes** and **Tega Ogufere** as orphans at the Coram Hospital. The whole performance was supported brilliantly by the ensemble who multi-rolled throughout as choir members, townspeople and other cameo roles.

ART



Year 11 visited the Natural History Museum to research, sketch and photograph sources for their GCSE coursework. Students will use their research to create sketchbook pages of their visit and base practical work on their primary sources.

Year 10 visited the Henry Moore gardens and studio in North Hertfordshire to mark the beginning of the GCSE course and their Natural Forms project. A Level Art students visited both Serpentine galleries in October before heading to the Tate Modern where they were exposed to many contextual references and encouraged to explore various contemporary artists to support their coursework projects.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

Our GCSE geographers visited 13 sites along the River Ver for their data collection for the GCSE Controlled Assessment. Back in the classroom these results were analysed to form 25% of their GCSE. The new Flow meters, bought with money from the Development Fund, were put to good use, measuring velocity to help towards the discharge figure.

45 Year 10 Geographers also visited the sustainable energy plant powering the Olympics Site in Stratford and compared environmental quality between Hackney Wick and East Village.



SIXTH FORM DINNER



The annual Sixth Form Dinner comes early in the school calendar and helps to bond the two year groups in the Sixth Form. This year's theme was the Queen's 90th birthday, and the dinner featured many royal symbols and artefacts. At the beginning a poem celebrating the Queen's birthday (written by Florence, one of our regular Crossroads' guests) was read by **Luca Edmondson**. The guest speaker, Mr Adam Thrussell (OA), shared some excellent advice with the students.

ESU PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS

The ESU Public Speaking competition is the largest of its kind in the UK with over 400 teams entering each year. The Aldenham team qualified in a tough first heat beating St Clement Danes, Haileybury, Wycombe Abbey and Aylesbury Grammar School. **Nicholas Davis, Alex Knight and Dhyaan Shah** all performed well in their individual roles. Nick spoke passionately on the subject of 'Can the flame of political extremism ever be extinguished?' gaining him the highest score for the Speaker role out of all the competing teams.

We proudly secured a third place position, but unfortunately only the first place winner progressed to the Regional Finals in Cambridge. However we successfully fought off the competition from Haileybury and Haberdashers' Boys, and will be ready to face the audience again next year. Well done to all involved, the team should be very proud of their achievement.



VISIT TO POLAND

During October half term, 21 students and staff embarked on a short trip to Krakow, Poland, to learn about the cultural, historical and religious heritage of the city. They visited the Salt Mines to see for themselves the biggest underground chapel in the world, with statues made of salt.

The group had a memorable day tour around the concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau, and learned about the awful fate of the victims. The final day was spent on a walking tour around the main Jewish and historical sites of Krakow, including Schindler's Factory.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

The Senior School gathered in the Chapel to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, and stressed the importance of supporting those still living with the effects of the Holocaust and subsequent acts of genocide. Some of the pupils who visited Auschwitz in October spoke powerfully of their experiences. Members of each House lit a candle of remembrance and the School stood in silence as a show of respect for victims of hatred.



The pupils involved were **Charlotte Yeabsley, Joe Masri, Jolie Sharpe and Laurn Edwell**

CLASSICS DEPARTMENT TRIP TO ITALY

Students and staff from the Classics Department took time out at half term to explore the ancient sites of Italy. They visited the Naples Archaeological Museum before moving on to the beautiful town of Sorrento.

On the climb to the top of Mount Vesuvius they looked into the crater and contemplated the destruction caused by the eruption of 79 AD. They explored the ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii and were amazed by the preserved state of the amphitheatre. In Herculaneum, a smaller town preserved in a different way to Pompeii, they saw the commercial areas and the caves by the shore, where the gruesome remains were seen of the citizens who had sheltered there in hope of rescue.

The first big site in Rome was the Colosseum, the truly massive size of the Flavian Amphitheatre allowing a full appreciation of the often gruesome entertainments that went on there. The students explored all the famous historical sites where they could see the buildings they study as part of their course on Life in Rome for GCSE. On the final day, they visited the Ara Pacis and Augustus' mausoleum, and discussed the nature and power of the Julio-Claudian emperors, another important part of the background for Classical Civilisation and Latin students.



COMPUTING STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA

A group of Computer Science students travelled to Silicon Valley, the epicentre for much of the world's technology and IT infrastructure. The programme included trips to Stanford University, with Bill Gates and Steve Jobs amongst its famous alumni. Then followed a visit to the Computer History Museum widely regarded as the best in the world, the Intel Museum, the Google Campus and Nasa Ames Research Center; home to many space missions. Other places of interest were the Tech Museum of Innovation and the Exploratorium where students had an amazing time getting involved in a variety of hands on exercises. A tour to Alcatraz and an afternoon spent exploring San Francisco rounded off a trip that was well suited for the new Computer Science curriculum.



TEACH ALDENHAM

Breakfast Club is an excellent space for staff from across the Foundation to discuss and learn about new ideas and initiatives in order to develop their own classroom teaching. A popular talk was a student panel on differentiation, with four students responding to questions about how they learn and what helps them to learn. Other interesting talks have focused on Empathy Lab, Growth Mindset, The Use of Practical Activities in the Classroom, Flipped Learning, Feedback and Let's Think.

UK-CHINA FORUM

Aldenham was delighted to host a UK-China Forum between 11 UK schools and Heads of 11 schools from across China. This event, organised by the British Council, was opened by the Chairman of HMC, Mike Buchanan. For many of the Heads it was their first visit to a UK school so it was a great opportunity to show off our beautiful site including our boarding facilities and to give them a better understanding of a British education.



NEW SCREEN PRINTER TO DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

James James-Crook (OA) presented a cheque on behalf of The Letchmore Trust to Cara Macdonald, Head of Design & Technology, for a Thermofax screen printer. This will allow students to create their own mesh screens for printing onto textiles and other products, copied from images created or sourced from printed images and photocopies. Mr James-Crook said that he is looking forward to judging some of these works of art at the next Letchmore Trust Art competition.

GATHERINGS AND GIFTS



The Headmaster took great delight in seeing so many Old Aldenhamians who had been pupils during his time at the School, return for the OA Annual Dinner in November. He congratulated Neil Sutherland (B1966-70), President, for encouraging their attendance and making sure that the event remains attractive to all ages. About a third of the guests were under 30 years old, which made for an exceptionally lively affair and bodes well for the future of the OA Society.



(L to R) Aline Reindell, Mr James James-Crook, Miss Macdonald and Gracie Farrell

Special guests at the event included, William James, the son of an eminent OA, The Rt. Revd Colin James (SHO1940-44), who was invited to unveil a portrait of his father. The picture is a copy of a portrait of the Bishop of Winchester, a post held by Colin James from 1985-95 and is a gift to the School from the OA Society.



As we go to print the Aldenham Annual Fund 2016/17 has already generated over £29,000 for a major bursary and classroom resources. The pupils are very privileged to receive such generous gifts from our supportive community. The CCF cadets are particularly enjoying learning the basics of flight using a flight simulator installed with funds raised through the 2015/16 campaign.



MUSICAL NOTES

HOUSE MUSIC

Our new Director of Music, Mr John Rayfield, described the House Music competition as “a truly inspiring evening for all who were present”. He was blown away by each of the performances in the solo, part-song, ensemble and whole House Unison competitions. The adjudicator, David Hurley, chose Leeman’s as the winners of the Ensemble with their traditional rock band line-up of guitars and drums along with the addition of a clarinet, in their version of *The House of the Rising Sun*.

The Part Song was an arrangement in three parts of *You Raise Me Up*, which tested many areas of small group singing. The winning group, McGill’s, showed a remarkable sense of ensemble and focus, displaying a wide variety of dynamics and phrasing in their interpretation. The Solo competition provided the greatest contrast of the day with pieces from Ed Sheeran to the violin virtuoso Fritz Kreisler.

Martineau’s House got the Unison singing off to a flying start with *One Brick at a Time* from *Barnum*, thus ensuring that over the course of the evening every member of the School had performed on the stage.



Toby Freeman of McGill’s was awarded the prize with a sensitive and musical performance of *Cryin’* by Joe Satriani on the electric guitar, but special mention must also go to violinist **Abigail James** for her highly skilled performance of Kreisler’s *Tambourin Chinois*.



The prize for the most emotional performance of the evening must go to Riding’s committed performance of *My Way*, marking their last ever performance as a boys’ House before they are dispersed to other Houses at the end of this academic year. A well-deserved standing ovation greeted their final bars. Even this was not enough though to sway the adjudicator, who awarded Paul’s the Unison trophy for the third year running with their spirited and polished performance of a medley of songs from the *Sister Act* films. Their conductor **Nevada Ross**, suitably adorned in a nun’s habit, was awarded the Conductor’s prize for the evening.



CAROL SERVICE AT ST ALBANS ABBEY

The Aldenham School Carol Service at a packed St Albans Cathedral was a wonderful occasion to help draw the Christmas term to a close.

The Carol Service started in darkness with the choir illuminated by candlelight singing a medieval plainsong from the back of St Albans Cathedral, sounds that hark back to when much of the present cathedral was built, nearly a millennia ago. The lone soprano voice of **Amelia Osband** (Year 8) started the traditional first carol, *Once in Royal David's City*, followed by a brilliant brass fanfare which coincided with the switching on of the lights and the full blast of the organ (played by Mr Austin) as the congregation joined in with full voice.

With the merry sounds of *Ding Dong Merrily on High* ringing in their ears the congregation went out into the dark streets knowing that the Christmas season had well and truly begun.

INFORMAL CONCERT

Seventeen of our Years 7 to 13 students entertained the audience with a wonderful evening of high quality and varied music making. Brass, woodwind, strings and piano were all well represented in pieces from Beethoven to Elton John.

In such an evening of excellent performances across the board it would be unfair to highlight certain individuals, just a mention to those Music scholars who are new to the school: **Lillie Henchley** (saxophone) and **Edie Sunman** (guitar) from Year 7; **Alex Kessell-Holland** (French horn) and **Bob He** (piano) from Year 9. We look forward to many more performances from them over the years. It was also pleasing to hear so many young voices giving confident performances and we wish **Georgia Lowe** from Year 13 good luck in her music college auditions, judging by her captivating performance of *Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word*, she should do very well.





YEAR 7 INDUCTION WEEKEND

The Year 7 boys and girls struck up new friendships on a PGL and Thorpe Park bonding trip at the start of September as they tried out the zip wire, archery, aero ball, abseiling and not forgetting the big swing. "A great time was had by all", declared **Lorenza Bertacchi** (Martineau's Head Girl).

ATHLETICS WINS



Milly Gall (centre)

In January talented athlete **Milly Gall** won the U15 Long Jump with 5.21m at the London Indoor Games, ranking her 2nd in Great Britain. 13 year old Milly is also ranked 2nd in the country in her age group for Indoor Hurdles following her win at the South of England finals. She qualified for four events at the English Indoor Individual Events Championships in Sheffield but only competed in the Hurdles and

Long Jump. In March Milly can also look forward to competing in the English Indoor Pentathlon Championships, again in Sheffield.

Last September Milly won the Hertfordshire Schools' event in the English Schools' National Pentathlon finals in Exeter and went on to qualify at the regional event. She came 14th in the Under 15 National finals although she was competing in a year above her age; she had the highest points score of girls her own age. In December Milly came second in the South of England Indoor Pentathlon Championships.



Another talented athlete, **Tom Wright**, came 4th in the U17 Long Jump at the London Indoor Games with 5.94m and 2nd in the High Jump with 1.85m - ranking him 8th in this category in the country. We now have two Aldenham boys jumping over 1.8m as **Toni Ademuwagun** also managed this great achievement in the Hertfordshire County Championships last summer.

BUDDING RACING DRIVER



Year 9 student **Salman Shahid-Ali** is working hard to become a professional racing driver in Motorsport. Sal, who recently moved up from the Cadet Class IAME to Jnr X30s, is now spending lots of time testing on the track with his mechanic and manager. We wish Salman every success as he moves forward in his quest for a career in racing.

LEADING PONY SHOWJUMPER OF THE YEAR

Year 12 Aldenham student **Jodie Hall-McAteer** was crowned 2016 leading pony showjumper of the year. She lit up the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC in Birmingham by finishing first on Tixylix, and also finishing second on Little Squire. It is believed to be the first time in the 67-year history of this prestigious class for any rider to claim first AND second place.

In December Jodie crowned her pony career in some style, winning the Mince Pie 148cm Stakes again on Tixylix in her final competition with the 18-year-old mare. This experienced pair dismissed any pressure and set a sizzling – and unbeatable – target, finishing their round with a flourish at maximum speed.

“We know each other so well, I completely trust her. Even if I miss, Tixy will still try to jump the fence. Now I need to find a horse just like her,” said Jodie.



SPORT



FOOTBALL

It was a frustrating season on the whole as missed opportunities in a number of matches saw our chances of glory slip through our fingers. The U13A side lost in both ISFA & County Cups in extra time having missed penalties and a string of other chances too. Following some outstanding football and over 100 goals being scored, it was a cruel end to their runs.





Away from the actual fixtures there were a plethora of individual achievements that show how far football at Aldenham has progressed. **Zico Asare** (No.12) and **Xavier Amaechi** (No. 17) were again selected to represent England and flew to Brazil to play in two internationals. England won 4-3 with Xavier scoring the winning goal.

The U15A side also suffered heartbreak in the ISFA Cup, losing on penalties to Repton having been 2-1 up with just seconds to go in normal time. A number of U14s play for this team which bodes well for next season. Their own age group County Cup run is at the semi-final stage. Having won the Cup for the previous two seasons they will be determined to win it again.

The 1st X1 had a rollercoaster run in the ISFA cup before falling to Hampton School. They had beaten Ardingly (winners for the previous two seasons) on penalties in the earlier round having fought back three times in the match. However, losing our two England U16 players from the squad meant it was a tough ask against a strong Hampton side, and we bowed out. The

County Cup saw another defeat similar to the U13s, where we missed a string of chances and got caught on the counter attack. The U12A side lost in the first round of the County Cup but went on to improve immensely and win the vast majority of their matches. Goalkeeper, **Sam Jacobs** won their Player of the Season.

We also had a number of ISFA representative honours awarded. **Oran Swales** (U18), **Greg Ellingham** (U17) and **Romey Eccles-Meoded, Tom Barrett, Ola Okeowo, Toj Ladipo and Luca Boast** were all selected at U13.

October half term saw the U14 and U15 teams travel to Madrid for our bi-annual football tour. The boys played three matches each against local club sides, watched Real Madrid play, toured the stadium and were coached by two Spanish FA coaches on a 5 day trip. **Gabriel Saunders** and **James Shrimpton** won the players of the tour awards.



NETBALL MARBELLA TOUR

25 girls from Years 9 - 11 went to Marbella during half term for a Netball Tour where they trained each day followed by matches against teams from Gibraltar and Britain. The games were hard work, but overall the U14 team won two games and lost two, the U15s won two, drew one and lost one. The U16s managed to win all four of their matches.

“It was my first trip abroad with the school,” said **Zoe Freedman** “It was an amazing tour and experience as we learnt many new netball skills and techniques to use in games for the netball season. We also got to swim in the pool, go to the beach, go shopping, and get up close with the dolphins. We’re all so grateful for getting to go and hope we can do it again!”



Our Year 9 and Year 10 netballers enjoyed a fantastic coaching session at Aldenham led by Karen Greig, ex England Netball player and Manchester Thunder Director of Netball.

FIVES

Aldenham celebrated the centenary of the Fives Courts last term. The courts have produced many fine players over the years including national champions, and the historic landmark was marked with two fixtures - a wonderful way to celebrate Fives at Aldenham which continues to go from strength to strength.

The School took on the might of the Heath Club, a collection of players dominated by OAs who maintained their dominance to win each match down to fifth pair. It was always going to be a struggle against seasoned veterans who play each week. The second fixture against the Eton Fives Association was a more successful occasion in terms of results and equally enjoyable on the night. Let’s hope for continued success in the next 100 years.



TENNIS

Well done to our senior Tennis mixed doubles team who had a convincing win over Brampton Manor School in the knockout stages of the LTA Senior Students Mixed Doubles National Tournament. Good luck to **Abbie James & Jamie Gall**, and **Hana Hashiba-Charlton & Chris Page** as they move into the last 16. The next knockout will be against Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke. The teams had previously won the County round of the Tournament having beaten opponents from Highgate and Haileybury.



Our Senior boys' team look forward to playing their first round of the Senior Boys' National Cup competition later this term and the Year 8 & 10 teams will be playing their County League matches in the summer term. Good luck to all!

HOCKEY



Congratulations to our 1st XI girls' team who reached the half term break unbeaten.

The girls 1st XI had an outstanding season, all the more impressive with so many of the squad being under 16. A last minute equaliser in the first game of the season was an early indication of a team with a great work ethic and will to win. A number of closely fought victories followed and at half term the team remained unbeaten. Further successes followed although the proudest moments had to be the two narrow defeats against top quality opponents where huge commitment was shown when lesser teams would have folded. To mention a few: **Maxine Hotz** made remarkable progress over the season having never played before; **Emma Conway**, **Abigail James**, **Sasha Macdonald** and **Debbie Okeowo** proved too athletic for most opponents; **Megan Yeabsley** improved hugely over the season in defence and **Monica Evans** proved an intimidating presence in central defence. **Hana Hashiba-Charlton**, an outstanding goalkeeper in previous years, demonstrated herself to be a hugely impressive defender.

The U15s began the season slowly but steadily improved and ended winning or drawing over half their matches with **Milly Gall** in particular excelling. **Milly Rees** and **Sarah McMahon** provided an excellent supporting act and it was very pleasing to see new girls

Rosie Labbett and **Ellie Macdonald** make so much improvement over the season.



CRICKET

Aldenham has again made it into *The Cricketer's Top 100 Schools*, a repeat of last year's success. The publication of this top 100 follows an exhaustive process with more than 250 schools entering submissions for inclusion. All were matched against an extensive set of criteria, with the schools chosen having outstanding cricket programmes. "This is a celebration of the best of school sport, the grounds, the facilities, the coaching, the fixture lists and the general commitment," said *The Cricketer* editor Simon Hughes.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

By taking our learning out of the classroom whenever appropriate, we foster adaptability in our children and a confidence which they will take into their adult lives.



The first trip of the year for the Prep saw Year 5 set off to Cornbury Park in Oxfordshire for Bushcraft, teamwork and leadership sessions where they built shelters, slept under the stars, cooked their food over an open fire and swam in a fresh water lake.

Roman life was made real at Verulamium Museum in St Albans for Year 4, whilst the Year 3's musical interlude at the Royal Albert Hall was a first for Aldenham and was very well received by all who enjoyed the music in this very famous venue. This class also entered the world of Roald Dahl in his home town of Great Missenden.



Year 1 pupils were fascinated by many of the toys in the Museum of Childhood.



The river Gade was well measured and documented by our Year 6 geographers.



Paradise Wildlife Park had no gorillas on the run, thank goodness, only many, many 'amazing creatures'! The Year 2 children were enthralled by all they saw and learnt.

Nobody sat on the red seats of the House of Lords, thank goodness, when Year 6 toured the Palace of Westminster. They spotted politicians as they walked up Whitehall, pausing at the Cenotaph and the memorial to Women in the War. Techniques and styles of painting from Gainsborough to Turner and Gauguin to Van Gogh filled the afternoon. While Van Gogh was obviously both fantastically gifted and yet also troubled, he advocated the catalyst of the Growth Mindset we promote to our children today, 'What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?'



The view looking down from Tower Bridge

'When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life' claimed Samuel Pepys and on a glorious day Year 3 proved that they are thrilled by London. Their observations about structures seen from the Shard and the building itself were detailed and fascinating.

Congratulations to our Chess team who battled away at their games during a home match and beat Radlett Prep 14½ to 13½. Our team were excellent hosts and well deserved their success.

Congratulations to our NSPCC art competition winners. It was good for them to meet the local MP, Oliver Dowden who was very impressed by the high standard of the art.



The children in Spanish Club each made a hand-made birthday card for the Queen's 90th birthday. They sent birthday greetings in Spanish on beautifully decorated and designed cards and were thrilled to receive a letter of thanks from the Queen.

Our assemblies from the theme of 'Aldenham Around the World' took us to places including India, The Netherlands, Italy, the Czech Republic and Denmark.

Support for charity included the School Council's Cake Sale which was organised and manned by the children, raising over £350 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Retiring collections from our Christmas

productions and service were divided between Save the Children and the Borehamwood Foodbank.

Year 3 hosted their grandparents to tea. These very special guests also enjoyed a tour of the School, lively discussions about school 'now and then' followed by a performance of a delightful song.

Masterclasses have enabled all our children to begin a series of sessions to further the skills, talents and gifts they have. The School buildings took on a different style as the Masterclasses were held in every room including the Head's office and a corridor!



Christmas productions of 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' and 'Children of the World' were performed to packed houses in the lobby of Woodrow House with confidence and style. Year 4 also brought Christmas cheer to Pheasant Court retirement complex by singing their well-rehearsed Christmas carols.



At the wonderful Carol Service the Year 3-6 children sang and read beautifully conveying the Christmas message in a pure and simple way. Thanks went to Revd. Boothby for taking the service and for the 'message' she gave us.



Young Voices at the O2 was a major feature for the Year 5 and 6 choir. To sing in a choir of 7,810 children was an experience never to be forgotten and lifted everyone's spirits sky high. The Young Voices experience at the O2 Arena saw our talented choir contribute to several medleys and give extra accompaniment to The Beatbox Collective.

ACTIVE ALDENHAM

In addition to the regular curriculum activities we have continued to give pupils the opportunity to shine in fixtures against other schools. For the boys, this has been via a couple of football festivals for each of the age groups. These involve all boys pitched against similar standard opposition from other schools. The idea is to promote healthy competition and sporting behaviour; the cornerstones of Prep sport. Even the year 2 pupils have had their "football match" against external opposition although these games tend to be even more frantic!

Swimming has also been very much to the fore. The boys' and girls' teams retained the silver cup that they won last year at the Buckingham College Inter School Gala at John Lyon School. Lots of individual medals were won. **Isabella Yeabsley** broke the girls' 25 metre backstroke record with a time of 18s. She has also gained a number of county qualifying times and attended the Watford & District swimming trials along with **Shinnosuke Hashiba-Charlton**.

Another of the cornerstones of Prep sport is the House matches; the Lower Prep Swimming Gala at Bushey Grove Leisure Centre was taken by Champion House. The Lower Prep Cross Country was claimed by Creswell and the Upper Prep won by Cantrell. Individual winners in the girls' event were **Lexi Yeabsley** and **Isabella Yeabsley**, both setting new records. In the boys' event it was **Charlie Reid** and **Joseph Hime**, who also set a school record. Champion took the Lower Prep House Football on goal difference and Cantrell claimed the Upper Prep and Overall competition. In the Netball competition it was to be the three C's. Creswell, Creswell, Creswell who were the victors.

We are now getting ready for the Herts County Cross Country event, St. Martin's Road Relay, our



own Inter school Cross Country Competition and the Norfolk House Cross Country (to be held on the extensive grounds of Aldenham). Hockey is in full flow. Throw in a couple of masterclasses in Cricket and Fitness and it has been a busy time!

The girls' Netball teams have enjoyed a great season; the U9A, B and Cs either won or drew all their matches against Quainton Hall and Holland House. They also won their matches against Immanuel, thanks to great shooting and excellent teamwork. The U11s have had mixed fortunes against other local Prep schools, gaining excellent experience along the way. They are looking forward to hosting the U11 Aldenham Netball festival, and also playing the most competitive games of the season: Inter-House Netball!

Since January the girls have been focusing on Football in their games lessons.



Isabella Yeabsley is waiting to hear if she makes the final of the IAPS swimming gala in 50m Freestyle to be held in May. She has also had tremendous success at the Herts County Championships, winning medals in some high quality races.

FOUNDATION STAGE



The year began with a winning start for the Foundation Stage as their sunflowers were declared the tallest in the Prep School Sunflower competition.



For the Harvest Scarecrow Competition the theme was 'Sporty'. All the children were delighted with their Paralympian entry and were thrilled to see their scarecrow alongside others in the School Chapel for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Cookery has been a focus with regular cookery sessions for the Nursery children and the 'Little Kitchen Club' for the Reception children. Treats have included Gruffalo Paw Biscuits, Apple Firework Lollies and Strawberry Smoothies.

The children have given their support to some favourite charities; they have worn 'Spots for Children in Need'; donned their denim for 'Jeans for Genes' and celebrated Harvest festival by contributing lots of wonderful gifts for the 'New Hope Trust'.



Woodland School Sessions continued into the autumn months with wonderful outdoor activities and the introduction of 'Onions' the Woodland Story Time Puppet.



The Reception class are enjoying visiting the Prep School for lessons in the IT Suite. Their creations have made a wonderful display.



The Christmas production of the 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' was a triumph. The children sang beautifully and the performances were very special indeed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th March

- OA Society AGM

22/23rd March

- Dance Show

30th March

- Spring Concert

11th June

- OA Day

16th June

- Prep Schools' Cricket Festival

17th JUNE

- **OPEN MORNING**

23rd June

- Prep School Visitation Day

24th June

- Visitation Day

30th June

- Eros to Eros Run

30th June

- ASPA Leavers' Ball

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